NOTE XXVI.

ON THE NEST OF PITECHEIR MELANURUS

BY

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Our correspondent Mr. J. D. Pasteur is such a passionate naturalist, that he had no rest before he procured a nest of the black-tailed, red Tree-Rat. A specimen of the kind has been presented by that gentleman to our Museum and is at present exhibited in a glass case.

This globulous nest has a diameter of 18 cm., the entrance, placed sideways, a diameter of about 6 cm. It has nicely been constructed of small branches with leaflets and parts of large leaves.

For further details I translate here a part of Mr. Pasteur's letter to me:

»The nest has been found in the thick wood about 4 meters above the ground between the branches of a young *Koppo*-tree — *Jambosa densiflora* D. C. — one of the numerous Indian wild *Djamboe*-species, with small fruits eatable to birds and other animals. The nest inside is clothed with rugged leaves, outside with moss and looks quite like a birds nest. The branch should be placed in a slant direction and a little turned so that the opening of the nest stands nearly vertical."

»I observed that these animals kept in confinement are very fond of bread and pulp of ripe coffee-beans. For the

rest I have to add to my former informations (Notes Leyden Museum, 1892, p. 123) merely the following observation, namely that by having now found the nest only some meters above the ground, I suspect that the native told lies when he reported (N. L. M. 1892, p. 123) that he observed one of the red Rats running upon a branch of a high *Rasamala*-tree: probably the native said that solely in order to exaggerate the trouble spend in catching the animal as much as possible, and at the same time to discourage the other natives crowded together on that occasion. Under such circumstances it is very difficult to obtain trustworthy details from the natives: it is quite the same thing as with the informations concerning trees upon which rare Insects have been collected, the natives fearing that others may frequent their hunting-ground."